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Insurance—New York. New York continues to maintain her recently achieved preëminence in insurance legislation. An investigation of town and country coöperative fire insurance corporations; proceedings against certain coöperative live stock, and coöperative fire insurance, corporations, and Lloyds associations; the reinsurance of a prominent life insurance company in a company not hitherto licensed in the state; two judicial interpretations of the expense limitation imposed upon life insurance companies; revelations of mismanagement of certain fire insurance companies; and the realized inconveniences of the limitation upon the volume of a company's new business,—are among the important events which have called forth substantial amendments to the insurance law, this year.

Assembly bill 1287 (chap. 168 of the laws of 1910) applies to all insurance companies the regulation already imposed upon life companies, requiring the advance approval by the superintendent of any scheme involving a reinsurance of substantially all the risks of any company. The assuming company must maintain on account of such risks, the same reserve as would have been required of the ceding company.

Assembly bill 2402 (chap. 328 of the laws of 1910) regulates, and provides for the supervision by the superintendent of coöperative fire insurance corporations. An advance premium corporation may not transact business in more than five adjoining counties until its insurance in force amounts to one million dollars, while assessment corporations are confined to the town or county of domicile until certain limits are reached, after which the limits are somewhat enlarged. There are detailed provisions to govern the conduct of business of these companies.

Assembly bill 847 (chap. 318 of the laws of 1910) prohibits the further incorporation of assessment live stock concerns.

Senate bill 1501 (chap. 634 of laws of 1910) amends many sections of the insurance law. It forbids loans as well as gifts from insurance companies to the superintendent or any of his subordinates, and the prohibition is extended to gifts or loans from officers of directors of companies. Fraternals are deprived of their exemption from the necessity of a license from the superintendent. In addition to the minimum capital stock required, a new company must hereafter begin with a surplus of 50 per cent thereof, fully paid in cash. Real estate mortgages are withdrawn from the list of securities available for purposes of deposit, and deposits of foreign companies in other states are credited under the customary terms of reciprocity. The amortization rule for the valuation of securities is amended so as to apply regularly to life companies only, which,

however, still retain the right to report market values or book values if not in the aggregate higher than the amortized values, while on the other hand, other insurance corporations doing business in the state may be required by the superintendent to report amortized values whenever he deems the requirement desirable. Marine insurance business is relieved from the limitation of risk upon a single hazard. Companies of other countries, authorized to write fire insurance in New York, are authorized to write marine business also, by making additional deposits. Companies of other states are no longer forbidden to remove causes to federal courts. The required triennial examinations of domestic life insurance companies are retained, but other insurance companies are subjected to quinquennial examinations.

By senate bill 1485 (chap. 668, laws 1910) a "combination standard form" of policy is established for the joint use of two or more fire underwriting corporations, subject to the approval of the superintendent.

One of the most important enactments is senate bill 1645 (chap. 638, laws of 1910), regulating "Lloyds" and interinsurers. Many informal associations, some of them wholly irresponsible, have long transacted business in imitation of Lloyds of London, and have escaped a proper supervision. These are now brought under regulation. Only such Lloyds as are now licensed are to be permitted to operate. These must file applications, submit verified statements, acknowledge the joint legal liability of their members, secure permission from the superintendent, submit to regular examinations, maintain in reserve all unearned premiums, and each individual underwriter must be worth at least \$20,000.

Senate bill 1459 (chap. 636) prescribes standard provisions for health and accident policies. During the past year this subject has been prominent in the discussions of insurance commissioners, and the opinion has prevailed that prescribed provisions are hardly less expedient in the case of health and accident policies than in life and fire policies.

By assembly bill 2176 (chap. 616), McClintock's Tables of Mortality among annuitants, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent are made the minimum standard in the valuation of annuities, and the American experience table, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the minimum for industrial business, but companies may substitute for the latter the standard, or the substandard, Industrial Mortality Table.

By assembly bill 2617 (chap. 697), special deposits to secure registered policies and annuity bonds are discontinued, the scheme of securing a public guaranty of contracts having proved less popular than had been anticipated. By the same bill, the limitation upon the amounts of new

business which domestic life companies may write, is amended so as to allow a little more latitude, and so as to permit the arbitrary limit of \$150,000,000 to be avoided, provided the increase is accomplished with considerably stricter economy than would otherwise be legally required. All the limitations upon volume are now applied to foreign as well as domestic companies. The same bill amends the limitation of expense of life insurance companies, in order to obviate difficulties caused by judicial interpretations. One change makes it clear that the limitation is a company matter and not an agency matter. The other change permits companies to claim credit for only such mortality gains as arise upon policies still in force. Finally, agents' compensation in other forms than commissions and collection fees is recognized, but the superintendent must be satisfied that the expense limitations will not in this way be exceeded.

The enactment of these laws deserves somewhat more recognition than a formal notice of the most important changes. Nearly all of them enact "administration" bills. Thus, before retiring from office, Governor Hughes has been able, with the coöperation of a trusted appointee, Superintendent Hotchkiss, to bring to a virtual conclusion the insurance reforms with which his reputation as a public servant has been so peculiarly identified. It is unlikely that the revision of the insurance laws will cease, but the legislation of this year is of special interest because it marks the removal of the last serious hardships of the Armstrong legislation, and the substantial extension of the Armstrong reforms to branches of underwriting other than life insurance.

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Legislative Reference. On May 13, Governor Harmon of Ohio, approved a law providing for a legislative reference and information department in connection with the state library. The head of the department is to be appointed by the board of library commissioners and it is stipulated in the act that he be a person well fitted by training and experience to fill the requirements of the office and that he shall perform all the duties prescribed in the act, as well as such other duties as the board of library commissioners and the general assembly may prescribe. It is also stipulated in the act that the legislative reference librarian shall, as soon as possible, make available for ready reference and use suitable indices to all such information as is contained in the public documents of the state and shall keep a complete file of all bills printed by order of either house of the general assembly. It is also made the duty of the